Introduction

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This volume contains a selection of the papers and posters presented at the Morphology Conference 5th Décembrettes, which took place at the University of Toulouse-le Mirail on December 7-8, 2006. The Décembrettes were first held in 2002 as a seminar organized by the Morphology team of the ERSS (Equipe de Recherche en Syntaxe et Sémantique) research unit. Since then, they have been organized annually, and in 2005 they have become a large conference with an international scientific committee. The Décembrettes also continued the Forum de Morphologie, the first international conference in linguistic morphology which has been organized in France, whose first edition was held in Lille in 1997. Fourteen oral papers and six posters were presented at the 2006 edition; all were of an excellent quality. The conference was organized in two sessions: the first day was open to communications devoted to any aspect of linguistic morphology, while the second day was devoted to a thematic section about "Analogy and lexical pressure in morphology", an issue which is central for our research team. The organization of the present volume reflects this double articulation: a first set of papers is directly devoted to analogy in morphology, seen from various points of view; a second set is constituted by articles about different aspects of morphological analysis. Both the theoretical frameworks adopted by the authors and the phenomena and languages studied are various. This is a reflect of the great development the research in morphology has undergone in the last years, and of its vitality. Moreover, the interfaces with the other domains of linguistics (from phonology to semantics, from typology to psycholinguistics) are evident. In spite of this, all the papers contained in this volume have much in common. First of all, they are all centered, without exception, on data. After a period in which data were just a corollary of theoretical reflection, they have now become a substantial element of any serious research, especially in morphology. Secondly, each of the authors is conscious of the fact that new data or new insights on existing data have some influence on theorization. So, none of the authors presents a mere analysis of some phenomenon; each of them is concerned with more general theoretical questions. This constant movement from data to theory, and from theory to data is, in our opinion, one of the most important features of today's research in morphology. Data are what allows morphologists to have a useful dialogue in spite of the variety of points of view and of frameworks available.

In the first contribution of the volume, Luigi Burzio studies various phenomena of syncretism – in particular in combinations of clitics in Italian and some related dialects – and claims that morphology and phonology should be viewed as systems of constraints acting in parallel, rather than serially. Livio Gaeta proposes a more general reflection of two notions, often used in various frameworks but never clearly defined, that of economy and that of analogy. His proposal, inspired by Wurzel's (1989) concept of system adequacy, consists in underlying the role of inner morphological organization, and in particular of paradigms. The paper by Geert Booij presents his model of Construction Morphology, in which word formation patterns are viewed as schemas generalizing over sets of existing complex words. Moreover, he defends the idea of a hierarchical lexicon, in which an intermediate level between concrete words and abstract schemes make generalizations over subsets of words, and explain, for instance, the emergence of affixes from compounding patterns. Michel Roché's paper proposes a new insight on derivates by the suffix –isme in French. His main claim is that traditional Word Formation Rules are unsuitable to account for the surface form of derived words. According to him, the notion of 'model' is a better tool in order for taking into account the influence of the existing lexicon on the phonological, categorial and semantic features of a derived word. In a paper devoted to inflection, Antonio Fábregas proposes an analysis of the Spanish verb ir ('go'). His proposal consists in the idea of an 'ordered separationism' in which the morphological context may override a phonological constraint.

Arity operations in Semitic Languages, like Modern Hebrew and Modern Standard Arabic are the main topic of Lior Laks' paper, where he defends the idea that morphology is an autonomous component which has interfaces both with the lexicon and syntax. According to him, the differences between the morphology of passivization and that of other valence-changing operations depend on the component of grammar in which the operation takes place. The contribution by Giorgio Francesco Arcodia discusses the idea, traditional in the studies on Chinese, that it is a language of compound words. Taking into account diachronic as well as typological factors, he sketches an explanation for the emergence of a large number of compounds in Chinese. Susanna Padrosa Trias studies a particular type of compounds in Catalan, verbs having the form [NV], in which the internal N refers to an inalienable possession, as in *alatrencar* ('break the wing(s) of an animal'). Her position is that, contrary to what has been claimed, these forms cannot be produced by a syntactic movement, but are indeed a morphological construction. In the last paper, Hélène Giraudo and Madeleine Voga-Redlinger propose a new architecture for the mental organization of morphology, with a level of morphological units is situated at the interface between the phonological and the semantic ones. Their claim is supported by the results of several psycholinguistic experiences on French.

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